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# TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

ľattorneys docket númber 33942R003

U S APPLICATION NO. (1f known,

°°107°088233

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/BR00/00105	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE September 20, 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED September 20, 1999
		<u> </u>

TITLE OF INVENTION	A METHOD FOR CONTROLLING AND PROTECTING ELECTRIC MOTORS, A SYSTEM FOR
	CONTROLLING ELECTRIC MOTORS AND AN ELECTRIC MOTOR SYSTEM
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US	Paulo Sergio Dainez; Luiz Von Dokonal and Marcos Guilherme Schwarz.

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

- This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U S.C 371
- 2. This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U S C. 371.
- 3. So This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(l).
- 4. 

  A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
- - a. \( \infty \) is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b. □ has been transmitted by the International Bureau (see accompanying PCT Form 308).
  - c. □ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
- 6. □ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
- 7. 

  ✓ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 34 (35 U.S.C. 371).
  - a.  $\square$  are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b.  $\square$  have been transmitted by the International Bureau
  - c. □ have not been made, however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. 

     have not been made and will not be made.
- 8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 34 (35 U.S C 371)
- 9. □ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C 371(c)(4))
- 10. 

  A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U S.C. 371(c)(5)).

### Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:

- 11. 

  An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1 97 and 1 98
- 12. 

  An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
- - ☐ A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
- 14. □ A substitute specification.
- 15. 

  A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
- 16. 

  ☐ Other items or information:
- a. PCT Publication WO 01/22566 with International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210)
- b. PCT Request (Form PCT/RO/101)
- c. Notification of Transmittal of the International Search Report or the Declaration (Form PCT/ISA/220)
- d. International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/409 and PCT/IPEA/416)
- e. PCT Demand (Form PCT/IPEA/401)

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

U.S APPLICATION NO (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) 10/088233

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17.   ™ The following fees a	re submitted		\	CALCULATIONS	PTO USE ONLY	
Basic National Fee (3' Search Report has been						
International prelimina (37 CFR 1 482)						
(37 CFR 1 482)						
Neither international printernational search fee						
International prelimina						
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Surcharge of \$130.00 for fu priority date (37 CFR 1.495	rnishing the oath or declaration la	NTER APPROPRIATE B ater than $\square$ 20 $\square$ 30 months		\$	-1	
Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate			
Total Claims	7 - 20 =	0	x \$18 00			
Independent Claims	3 -3=	0	x \$84.00			
Multiple dependent claim(s)	) (if applicable)		+ \$280 00	.00		
		TOTAL OF ABOV	VE CALCULATIONS =	\$ 890.00		
Reduction by ½ for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1 9, 1.27, 1.28).				\$ .00		
			SUBTOTAL =	\$ 890.00		
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than □ 20 □ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)) +						
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				.890.00		
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3 28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				\$ 00		
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$890.00		
	Amount to be refunded	\$				
				charged	\$	
a.   A check in the amount of \$890.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.						
			he above fees.			
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and						
granted to restore the application to pending status.						
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP						
1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800  Washington, D.C. 20036  SIGNATURE						
Telephone: (202) 659	-2811		De	ennis C. Rodgers, I	Reg. No. 32,936	
Facsimile: (202) 263-4	4329		NAME		STRATION NO. March 19, 2002	
				Date	17101011 171 171	

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**PATENT** 

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Paulo Sergio Dainez, et al.

International Application No.: PCT/BR00/00105

International Filing Date: September 20, 2000

U.S. Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Filed: : March 19, 2002 (Herewith)

Examiner: To Be Assigned

For:

A METHOD FOR CONTROLLING AND PROTECTING ELECTRIC MOTORS, A SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING ELECTRIC MOTORS AND AN ELECTRIC

**MOTOR SYSTEM** 

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees, please amend this application as follows.

## IN THE CLAIMS

Applicants have attached to this Amendment documents entitled "Amended Claims" and "Marked-Up Copy of Previous Claims". Please amend claims4 as shown in the document entitled "Marked-Up Copy of Claims". Please add new claim 7 as shown in the document entitled "Amended Claims".

## **REMARKS**

Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested prior to or concurrent with calculation of the filing fees. This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to remove the multiple dependent claims to avoid the surcharge.

Examination on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP

By:\_

Dennis C. Rodgers, Reg. No. 32,936 1850 M Street, N.W., Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 20036 Telephone: (202) 659-2811 Fax: (202) 263-4329

March 19, 2002

MARKED UP COPY OF CLAIMS

4. (Amended) The method in accordance with claim 2 [or 3] characterized in that the control system 2 may be turned off through said error signal.

AMENDED CLAIMS

- 4. (Amended) The method in accordance with claim 2 characterized in that the control system 2 may be turned off through said error signal.
- 7. (New) The method in accordance with claim 3 characterized in that the control system 2 may be turned off through said error signal.

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JC13 Rec'd PCT/PTO 1 9 MAR 2002

Title: "A METHOD FOR CONTROLLING AND PROTECTING ELECTRIC MOTORS,
A SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING ELECTRIC MOTORS AND AN ELECTRIC
MOTOR SYSTEM"

## Disclosure of the invention

The present invention is directed to a method for controlling and protecting electric motors, specially permanent magnet motors electronically actuated by a control system comprising a three-phase inverting bridge, in which it is required to monitor the position of the rotor by using a position detector physically attached to the axle or through the tension induced in the coils by the magnet, in order to correctly control actuation by the control system. The present invention is also directed to a system for controlling electric motors and an electric motor system.

The objective of the present invention is to prevent one or more switches of the three-phase inverting bridge from being actuated at an improper time, what can lead to the generation of high currents which cannot be detected by the current detector, said currents may cause the auto-demagnetization of the rotor magnet, besides causing damages to the switches of said inverting bridge.

## Description of the State of the Art

The detection of the rotor position is required for the actuation of permanent magnet motors.

In accordance with the prior art to the present invention, such detection can be accomplished through sensors physically connected to the rotor ("hall", optical type, and the like) or by observing the voltages induced in the motor coils themselves, as described in Brazilian Patent Application PI 8805485, in such a way that the control may correctly select which phases of the motor will be activated every time.

As described in more details below, the control unit, when normally operating, analyzes the input of the position detector and current protection detector, thus activating the respective outputs in accordance with a predetermined table. However, if there is a failure in the position detector, it is likely that one or more switches of the three-phase inverting bridge is unduly activated, the result of which can be the generation of high currents that are not detected by the current detector, thus resulting in the auto-demagnetization of the motor magnet and damages to the switches of the three-phase inverting bridge.

As known, the demagnetization of the magnet makes it difficult to start the

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motor, decreases the output and overheats the motor, being inadmissible in all the cases.

Still according to the prior art to this invention, the following measures to prevent the auto-demagnetization of the motor magnet are adopted: the design of a more robust motor, with an increased magnet thickness, what would increase notably the cost, specially in view of a larger magnet; the installation of a current protection detector in every switch or every phase of the motor, what would not only increase the cost but also the complexity of the system, by virtue of the higher number of detectors and signals for the control to analyze; or the simple elimination of the protection against auto-demagnetization, thus placing the integrity of the motor under the statistical possibility of the occurrence of a failure, what represents a serious risk not only for the system, but also for the image of the manufacturer.

## **Brief Description and Objects of the Invention**

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After a number of investigations, it was evidenced that, when normally operating and following the same rotation direction, the sequence where the positions of the rotor are updated in the sensor is always the same. Thus, such sequence can be predetermined, whereby the control unit of the system for controlling an motor could foresee the sequence where the positions of the rotor will be changed. By knowing the speed the motor is rotating at, it is possible to foresee the time when the position of the rotor will be changed.

With these information, the control unit can prevent failures when the motor is actuated, thus assuring the integrity of the rotor magnet and the inverting bridge switches.

In accordance with the teachings of the present invention, the control unit will accept only the position foreseen for the applicable rotation direction as valid, and always at the time expected for the present speed.

Preferably, when determining this time, a tolerance range defining a minimum time and a maximum time, during which a change in the position should take place, should be considered.

The present invention has the advantages, compared to the prior art, that it is not necessary to any oversize the rotor magnet, the cost and the complexity of the motor are decreased, and the current protection detector is simplified, besides conferring a greater reliability to the system.

Such advantages are attained through a method for controlling and protecting

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electric motors provided with a rotor, specially permanent magnet motors electronically actuated by a control system comprising a three-phase inverting bridge, characterized by comprising the step of counting a first period of time, during which said rotor should be between an original position and the next position, and the step of counting a second period of time that follows said the first period of time, during which said rotor should pass through said next position.

The present invention is also expressed as a system for controlling an electric motor provided with a rotor, specially a permanent magnet motor, comprising a threephase inverted bridge and characterized by being additionally comprised of a microcontroller capable of analyzing the positions of the rotor as a function of the time, associated with a counter capable of carrying out the step of counting a first period of time, during which said rotor should be between an original position and the next position, and the step of counting a second period of time subsequent said first period of time, during which said rotor should pass through said next position, as well as an electric motor system comprising a control system, an electric motor electronically actuated by the control system; and characterized by being additionally. compriseds of a microcontroller capable of analyzing the positions of the rotor as a function of the time, associated with a counter capable of carrying out the step of counting a first period of time, during which said rotor should be between an original position and the next position, and the step of counting a second period of time that follows said first period of time, during which said rotor should pass through said next position.

## **Brief Description of the Drawings**

The present invention will be described below in more details with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 represents a block diagram of an electric motor system electronically actuated by a control system;

Figure 2 is a schematic representation of a three-phase inverting bridge;

Figure 3 is a three-phase inverting bridge actuation table; and

Figure 4 is a generic flowchart of a method for controlling and protecting electric motors that incorporates the teachings of this invention.

## **Detailed Description of the Invention**

With reference to Figures 1 and 2, an electric motor system 1 is electronically actuated by a control system 2 comprising a rectifying bridge 3 basically, a capacitive

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filter 4, a three-phase inverting bridge 5, a three-phase motor provided with a permanent magnet rotor 10, a control unit 11, position detectors SA, SB and SC, and a current protection detector PI.

As known in the state of the art, the control unit 11 is responsible for the monitoring of the position detectors SA, SB and SC and the current protection detector PI in order to excite, through the respective outputs, the switches T1 through T6 of the three-phase inverting bridge 5 at a suitable time in accordance with the table illustrated in Figure 3.

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Thus, in response to the command of the control unit 11, the three-phase inverting bridge 5 will also apply a current to the coils of the motor 10 at the right time.

As already mentioned, in the event there is any failure in the position detectors SA, SB and SC, it is possible that one or more switches T1 through T6 of the three-phase inverting bridge 5 is not properly activated, what can generate high currents that are not detected by the current protection detector PI, resulting in the auto-demagnetization of the motor and damages to the switches T1 through T6 of the three-phase inverting bridge 5.

In accordance with the teachings of the present invention, the control system 2 also includes a microcontroller (not-shown) capable of analyzing the positions of the rotor as a function of the time, associated with a counter capable of carrying out successive steps of time counting. As known in the art, such counter may be an internal component of said microcontroller.

Said counter is set to zero whenever there is a change in the position of the rotor of the electric motor 10, the counting of a first period of time is started, during which period the rotor should be between a position and another one. Later on, the counting of a second period of time is started, during which time the rotor should pass through the next position.

In a three-phase motor with two poles there are six basic positions P1 through P6 of the rotor as shown in Figure 3, which positions should be successively reached by the rotor during a respective second period of time.

If the rotor passes through one of the positions during said first period of time, what would be too early, or after said second period of time has elapsed, what would be too late, it means that there has been some error, and then said microcontroller turns off the control system 2 in order to prevent further damages, thus preserving

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the integrity of the rotor magnet and the switches of the three-phase inverting bridge.

If the rotor pass through the correct position during said second period of time, the microcontroller will issue an output updating signal and restart the counter, preparing same for counting the first and second periods of time corresponding to the next position where the rotor should pass through.

Of course, if the rotor, during said second period of time, passes through a position that is not the correct one, it also means that there has been some error, and then said microcontroller turns off the control system 2.

Figure 4 represents a generic flowchart of a method for controlling and protecting electric motors to exemplify the present invention.

In accordance with the specific teachings of this invention, said second period of time should include a tolerance for the moment the rotor passes through a given position. As an example, in a three-phase motor with two poles rotating at 3,000 rpm, the rotor takes 20 ms to complete one turn, and thus it shall consume 3.3 ms for passing through each position.

In order to come up with said tolerance, said second period of time measured; by the counter should include a first head range of 1.65 ms (x/2) and a second tail range of 6.6 ms (2x) beyond the regular 3.3 ms, what represents a tolerance of x-50% and x+100%.

After a preferred example of realization has been described, it should be understood that the scope of the present invention encompasses other possible variations, being limited only by the contents of the appended claims including the possible equivalents.

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## CLAIMS

- 1- A method for controlling and protecting electric motors (10) provided with a rotor, specially permanent magnet motors electronically actuated by a control system (2) comprising a three-phase inverting bridge (5), characterized by comprising a step of counting a first period of time, during which said rotor should be between an original position and the next position and a step of counting a second period of time that follows said first period of time, during which said rotor should pass through said next position.
- 2- The method in accordance with claim 1, characterized by comprising an additional step of issuing an error signal if said rotor passes through said next position before or after said second period of time, or an output updating signal to restart a counter in the event the rotor passes through said next position during said second period of time.
- 3- The method in accordance with claim 2, characterized by comprising an additional step of issuing an error signal if said rotor passes, during said second period of time, through a position other than the one that follows said original position.
- 4- The method in accordance with claim 2 or 3 characterized in that the control system 2 may be turned off through said error signal.
- 5- A control system (2) for an electric motor (10) provided with a rotor, specially a permanent magnet motor, comprising a three-phase inverting bridge (5) and characterized by being additionally comprised of a microcontroller capable of analyzing the positions of the rotor as a function of the time, associated with a counter capable of carrying out the step of counting a first period of time, during which said rotor should be between an original position and the next position, and the step of counting a second period of time that follows said first period of time, during which said rotor should pass through said next position.
- 6- An electric motor system 1 comprising a control system (2), an electric motor (10) electronically actuated by the control system 2, and characterized by being additionally comprised of a microcontroller, capable of analyzing the positions of the rotor as a function of the time, associated with a counter capable of carrying out the step of counting a first period of time, during which said rotor should be between an original position and the next position, and the step of counting a second

- 7 -

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period of time that follows said first period of time, during which said rotor should pass through said next position.

## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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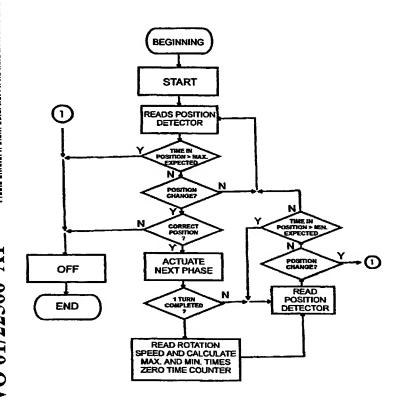
- (74) Agent: DANNEMANN, SIEMSEN, BIGLER & IPANEMA MOREIRA; Rua Marquês de Olinda, 70, Botafogo, CEP-22251-040 Rio de Janeiro, RJ (BR).
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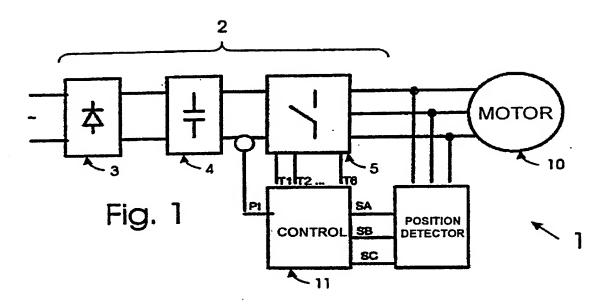
(54) Title: A METHOD FOR CONTROLLING AND PROTECTING ELECTRIC MOTORS, A SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING ELECTRIC MOTORS AND AN ELECTRIC MOTOR SYSTEM

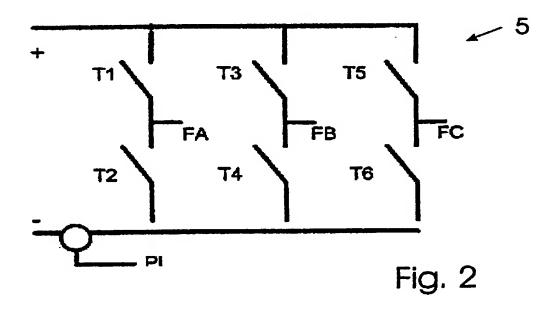


(57) Abstract: A method for controlling and protecting electric motors (10) provided with a rotor, specially permanent magnet motors electronically actuated by a control system (2) comprising a three-phase inverting bridge (5), characterized by being comprised of the step of counting a first period of time, during which said rotor should be between an original position and the next position, and the step of counting a second period of time that follows said first period of time, during which said rotor should pass through said next position. The present invention is also expressed as a control system (2) for an electric motor (10) provided with a rotor, specially a permanent magnet motor, comprising a three-phase inverting bridge (5) and characterized by being additionally comprised of a microcontroller capable of analyzing the positions of the rotor as a function of the time, associated with a counter capable of carrying out the step of counting a first period of time, during which said rotor should be between an original position and the next position, and the stage of counting a second period of time that follows said first period of time, during which said rotor should pass through said next position, as well as an electric motor (1) comprising the control system (2).

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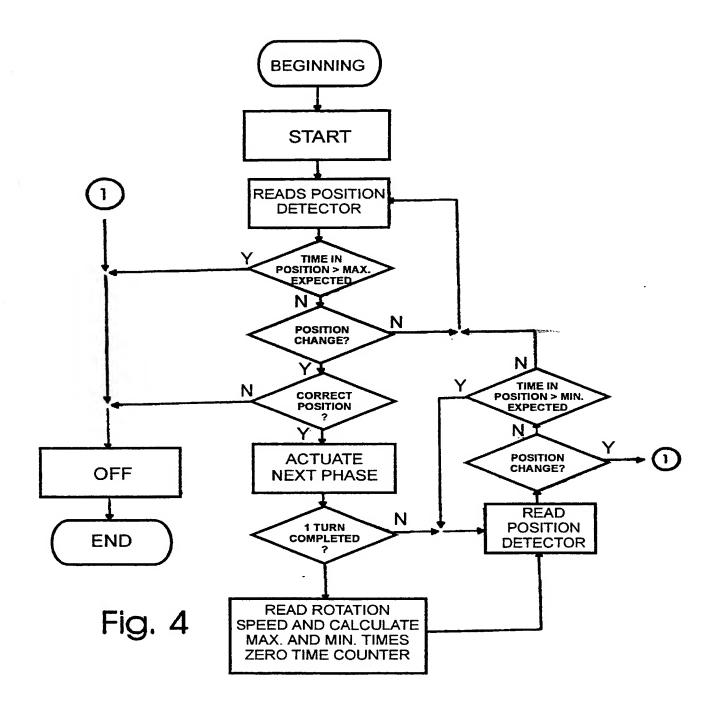


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	INLET				OUTLET					
POSITION	POSITION DETECTOR			CURPERT	•	SWITC	H AC	TUATI	ON	
	SA	SB	SC		T6'	T5'	T4'	T3'	T2'	T1'
P1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
P2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
P3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
P4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
P5	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
P6	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
X	X	X	X	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Fig. 3

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Convention & Non-convention PCT & Non-PCT

This form cannot be amended, attered 'or changed after it is signed (For use unity for inventors who (if understand the English language.)

Declaration and Power of Attorney

United States Patent Application

As a below named inventor, thereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and tritizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I aim the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor placed names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled. entitled

(check one) a is attached hereto.	olication No. 10/088,233 Ma	rch 19,2002	le)		
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PI 9904253-3	Brazil	September	,	yes	3, 3, 5
Thereby claim the benefit under Title 35.	United States Code, 8120, or 8365(c) of	of any United States apple	cation and PCT inte	mational application des	renating the
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l Hereby appoint the following attorneys.	to prosecute this application and to true	nsact all business in the P	atent and Trademark	Office connected there	with: Robert G.
Literary appoint the following attornays. Weilacher (20,531), Herbert M. Hanegar	(25,682), Dale Lischer (28,438), Ered	lerick F. Calvetti (28,557)	J. Rodgers Eunsfor	d, III (29,403), Michael Frondon S. Boss (46,567	), and Brett E
(32,263), Dennis C. Rodgers (32,936), IV	fary A. Monrebello (33.021). Enc J. H.	SURDIL (44' 129)' ENLICK IC	. Delancy (431330) c	-	
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263-4329. Direct all phone calls to (202	) 639-2811: >	•	·		
I hereby declare that all statements made	herein of my own knowledge are mue	and that all statements m	ade on information a	and belief are believed to	omnisonment. OF
I hereby declare that all statements made be true; and further that these statements both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of t	were made with the knowledge that w	allful false statements and	i ine iike so made ar v.icovardize the vall	dity of the application of	r any patent issued
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